GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3501
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2017
Capacity Utilization
Khadse Smt. Raksha Nikhil

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average capacity utilization for thermal power stations on all India basis has remained subdued at 59.2% during six months April to September 2016 as against 62.4% previous year;

(b) whether the Government analyzed factors affecting this decline;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has taken any remedial steps to improve average capacity utilization of thermal power stations which is declining continuously and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER,
COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) : Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c) : Yes, Madam. The factors affecting the decline in capacity utilization of thermal power plants include, inter alia, rapid increase in generation capacity including massive expansion of renewables, conservation of energy because of efficiency measures and low availability of gas for gas based thermal power stations.

(d) : The following steps are being taken for full capacity utilization of power generation capacities:

i. To revive and improve utilization of the stranded gas based
power generation capacity in the country, Government of India (GoI) has sanctioned a scheme supported with PSDF (Power System Development Fund) for utilization of gas based power generation capacity for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17. The scheme envisages supply of imported Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) to the stranded gas based plants as well as plants receiving domestic gas, selected through a reverse e-bidding process.

ii. UDAY (Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana), a scheme for the Financial turnaround and operational improvement of Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs), has been approved by the GoI with an objective to improve the operational and financial efficiency of the State DISCOMs, which may enable them to procure more power from the generators, thus increasing their Plant Load Factor (PLF).

iii. Implementation under Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and Integrated Power Development System (IPDS) for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution networks and for segregation of agriculture feeders to give adequate and reliable supply and reduce line losses.

iv. With "24x7 Power for All" initiative taken jointly with the State Governments, the access to electricity would increase and accordingly the electricity demand would also increase leading to increased utilisation of power generation. Plan for 35 out of 36 States/UTs have already been prepared and are under implementation.

v. Retirement of old and inefficient units. During 12th Plan period till September, 2016, a total of 3000 MW of inefficient thermal generating capacity has been retired. This will also result in better utilisation of more efficient plants.

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